



# Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species  
Program  
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife  
Route 135  
Westborough, MA 01581  
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## MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

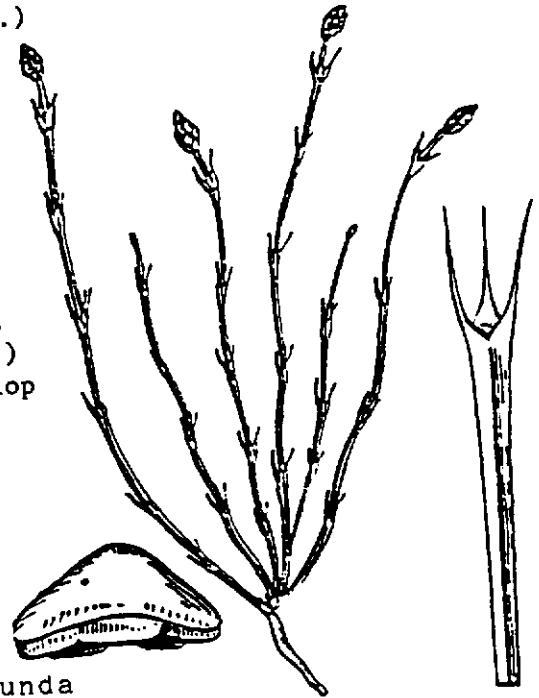
### DWARF SCOURING-RUSH (Equisetum scirpoides Michx.)

#### DESCRIPTION

This member of the Horsetail family is 4-8 inches (10-20 cm.) tall, evergreen and appears as a dark green tuft of wiry stems. It has slender stems which may curve upward or lie flat along the ground and widely branching rhizomes. The stem has 3 to 4 broad and deeply concave ridges. Triangular sheaths surrounding the stems are less than an inch (3-4 mm.) long and have 3 or 4 teeth. Small, dark cones develop in late summer.

#### HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS

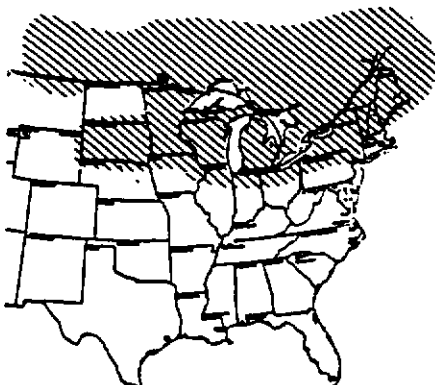
Dwarf Scouring-rush is found on moist banks, seepy wooded slopes and hillsides with springs and streams. This Horsetail is known to grow in subacidic and acid glacially derived soil. In certain locales, species co-occurring with E. scirpoides include Lindera benzoin (Spicebush), Osmunda cinnamomea (Cinnamon Fern), and Betula spp. (Birch).



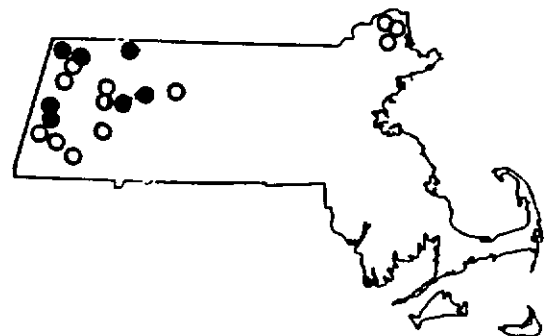
Britton, N.L. and A.A. Brown. An Illustrated  
Flora of the Northern United States and Canada.  
New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc. 1970 reprint of 1913 ed.

#### RANGE

Dwarf Scouring-rush ranges from Greenland and Baffin Island, west to Alaska, south to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Maine, Massachusetts and western New England, west to Minnesota and South Dakota, and then continues in Washington.



Distribution of Dwarf Scouring-rush



● Verified since 1978  
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town

(continued overleaf)

## DWARF SCOURING-RUSH

### POPULATION STATUS

In Massachusetts, Dwarf Scouring-rush is considered a species of "Special Concern". Seven current (1978 to present) occurrences have been reported and fourteen historical occurrences recorded. One reason for its rarity in Massachusetts is because it is near the southern edge of its range.